

R. History.

16

A TRUE

HISTORY

OF A LATE

Short ADMINISTRATION.



L O N D O N :

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A Short

A True

ACCOUNT

HISTORY

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I.

I.

THE late Administration came into Employment, under the Mediation of the Duke of Cumberland, on the Tenth Day of July 1765; and was removed, upon a Plan settled by the Earl of

AFTER a Suspension of all Government for near two Months, and when the Cause, Manner, and Mediator of the intended Change had induced every one, who had been conversant

of *Chatbam* on the Thirtieth Day of *July* 1766, having lasted One Year and Twenty Days.

fant in Business, to decline accepting them, the Great Offices of Administration were given upon a Plan, *not settled* by the Earl of *Chatbam*, to the Marquis of *Rockingham*, who had borne the Office of a Lord; to Mr. *Conway*, who had been a Groom of the Bed-chamber, and to the Duke of *Grafton* and Mr. *Dowdeswell*, who had never been in Office at all.

II.

In that Space of Time

III.

The Distractions of the *British* Empire were composed, by *The Repeal of the American Stamp Act*;

IV.

II.

In that Space of Time

III.

The Subject Colonies of *Great Britain* were excited to Rebellion and Independence by the Connivance and Encouragement

agement given to their Resistance to the Stamp Act, and the Constitutional Superiority of *Great Britain* surrendered to their Claims by the Repeal of it.

IV.

But the Constitutional Superiority of *Great Britain* was preserved, by *The Act for securing the Dependence of the Colonies*.

Private Houses were relieved from the Jurisdiction of the Excise, by *The Repeal of the Cyder Tax*.

IV.

By the Alteration in the Cyder Act, the Cyder Counties received the Reward of their Tumult and Sedition, by a partial Exemption from any Tax on their Beverage; and their Proportion of the Burthens of the State, together with the Addition of the new Duties on Cyder, was transferred to the other Counties of *England*, whose Beverage was already and had so lately been severely taxed.

V.

The personal Liberty of the Subject was confirmed, by *The Resolution against General Warrants.*

V.

The Resolution against General Warrants, which was rendered unnecessary by the Decisions of the Courts of Law, and which those who had before opposed now concurred in, because the personal Liberty of the Subject was already provided for and secured, was proposed from Motives of Spleen, Resentment, and the Pride of superior Strength.

VI.

The lawful Secrets of Business and Friendship were rendered inviolable by *The Resolution for condemning the Seizure of Papers.*

VI.

The Security of the lawful Secrets of Business and Friendship, which a late Minister proposed to render inviolable by the constitutional

VII.

tutional Method of a Bill, was, as soon as their Fears of Mr. Pitt were removed by his Absence, rejected, and a Resolution of one House of Parliament, which cannot have the same legal Authority, substituted in its Place.

VII.

The Trade of *America* was set free from injudicious and ruinous Impositions—Its Revenue was improved, and settled upon a rational Foundation—Its Commerce extended with foreign Countries; while all the Advantages were secured to Great Britain, by *The Act for repealing certain Duties, and encouraging, regulating, and securing the Trade*

VII.

The Trade of *America* was set free from those Ties which had ever been thought necessary to make it advantageous to *Great Britain*, and the Taxes reduced below even their Requests. Its Revenue was improved and settled on the Foundation of Tumult and Sedition. Its Commerce with foreign Countries extended, and
Part

*Trade of this Kingdom,
and the British Domi-
nions in America.*

Part of the Advantages to Great Britain surrendered, while the whole was put to Hazard by the Measure of repealing certain Duties, and encouraging, regulating, and securing the Trade of this Kingdom, and the *British* Dominions in *America*.

VIII.

Materials were provided and insured to our Manufactures—The Sale of these Manufactures was encreased—The *African* Trade preserved and extended—The Principles of the Act of Navigation pursued, and the Plan improved—And the Trade for Bullion rendered free, secure, and permanent,

VIII.

To provide a temporary Supply for our Manufactures, a permanent Support and extended Sale of them was retarded and prevented. The Principles of the Act of Navigation were sapped, and that Plan which had been the Foundation of our Naval Strength, abandoned and

permanent, by *The Act for opening certain Ports in Dominica and Jamaica.*

and counteracted. The *Spanish* Court alarmed, and the Trade for Bullion, which the preceding Administration had facilitated, was checked, and the Sentiments of the Ministry itself contradicted, by opening certain Ports in *Dominica and Jamaica.*

IX.

That Administration was the first which proposed, and encouraged public Meetings, and free Consultations of Merchants from all Parts of the Kingdom; by which Means the truest Lights have been received; great Benefits have been already derived to Manufacture and Commerce; and the

IX.

That Administration was indeed the first which intrusted the legislative Power to a Committee of Merchants, by which Means the most partial Informations were received and attended to, the Public Interests sacrificed to those of a few Individuals, and the extensive Resources of
Great

the most extensive Prospects are opened for further Improvement.

Great Britain almost cut off.

X.

Under them, the Interests of our Northern and Southern Colonies, before that Time jarring and dissonant, were understood, compared, adjusted, and perfectly reconciled. The Passions and Animosities of the Colonies, by judicious and lenient Measures, were allayed and composed, and the Foundation laid for a lasting Agreement amongst them.

X.

Under them the Interests of our Northern and Southern Colonies were mistaken, and preferred to those of *Great Britain*, while their Passions and Animosities were suspended only by the Union, formed to reject their Dependency, and disclaim the Authority of *Great Britain*; and if their Interests were reconciled, it was by the Sacrifice of those of the Mother Country.

XI.

XI.

XI.

Whilst that Administration provided for the Liberty and Commerce of their Country, as the true Basis of its Power, they consulted its Interests, they asserted its Honour Abroad, with Temper and with Firmness; by making an advantageous Treaty of Commerce with *Russia*; by obtaining a Liquidation of the *Canada* Bills, to the Satisfaction of the Proprietors; by reviving and raising from its Ashes the Negotiation for the *Manilla* Ransom, which had been extinguished and abandoned by their Predecessors.

XII.

XI.

The Treaty of Commerce with *Russia* had been projected, by their Predecessors, on Terms more advantageous to *England*; and the late Administration departed only from that Firmness, which had consulted its Interests and Honour, by *Concessions* to the Court of *Petersburgh*. The *Canada* Bills were liquidated on Stipulations, which, tho' accepted by the weary'd and despairing Proprietors, were less beneficial than those which had been refused in the preceding Year. That Phoenix, the Negotiation for the *Manilla* Ransom, did not, under them, appear brighter than

than it had done in the Time of their Predecessors, by whom it was never abandoned; and the Public has *hitherto* seen nothing arise from its Ashes but Smoke.

XII.

They treated their Sovereign with Decency; with Reverence. They discountenanced, and, it is hoped, for ever abolished the dangerous and unconstitutional Practice of removing military Officers for their Votes in Parliament. They firmly adhered to those Friends of Liberty, who had run all Hazards in its Cause, and provided for them in Preference to every other Claim.

XIII.

XII.

They treated their Sovereign with all the *Reverence* which is consistent with their declaring, that they came into Office upon his Faith, and insinuating, even in this their Manifesto, that they go out of Office by his Breach of it. They treated their Sovereign with *Decency*, by pledging his Name falsely to their Measures, and requiring his Opinion, in Writing, as to a Bill
then

then under the Consideration of the Legislature. Though too timid to *remove*, they were not afraid to *prefer*, for their Votes in P——t, the young and interested Officers, who were attached to them, to those of much superior military Pretensions. They revived, extended and exercised, with partial Severity, those *Civil* Proscriptions which the preceding Minister had endeavoured to abolish; and filled every Department with such of their own Adherents, as had followed them in their *Desertion* of the most respectable Part of the Opposition.

XIII.

With the Earl of *Bute* they had no personal Connection; no Correspondence of Councils. They neither courted him nor persecuted him. They practised no Corruption; nor were they even suspected of it. They sold no Offices. They obtained no Reversions or Pensions, either coming in or going out, for themselves, their Families, or their Dependants.

XIII.

If they had, with Lord *Bute*, no Correspondence of Councils, it was not for want of Inclination, but of Ability; for many among them endeavoured to avail themselves of the least Circumstance of former Intercourse, to conciliate his present Favour. They became Ministers from being thought less hostile to his Lordship than those to whom they succeeded; and they *did not venture* to remove the least of his Dependants. In the two preceding Years, no Election had been made, in which the Influence of ministerial Corruption could even be suspected.—

XIV.

The

The last Administration opened the Winter Campaign with the *Election at Rochester*.—In the former Period, no Pension was granted, except to a Lady, who was the Object of *Public*, as well as of *Royal* Compassion, and to a Gentleman, who had amply merited it by forty Years faithful and laborious Service. In the latter Period, Five Hundred Pounds *per Annum*, for Life, was given to a Gentleman who had never served at all, and whose Diffidence did not suffer him to accept an Office of 3000*l. per Ann.* without this insuring Consideration. A Reversionary Lease of a very beneficial Grant was bestowed on a Gentleman in very affluent Circumstances,

Circumstances, extending his Term thirty-five Years, while Two Hundred Pounds *per Ann.* given to another, purchased a Vacancy in a respectable Assembly. A noble Lord likewise is indebted to M——I Indulgence, for a Grant of Timber in a certain Forest, worth at least 13000*l.* These are some of the Services of the first three Months; and I doubt not, but the subsequent Part of their Administration produced many of a similar Nature.

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In the Prosecution of their Measures they were traversed by an Opposition of a new and singular Character; an

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In the Prosecution of their Measures, they were indeed traversed by an Opposition of a new and singular Character;

an Opposition of Placemen and Pensioners. They were supported by the Confidence of the Nation. And having held their Offices under many Difficulties and Discouragements, they left them at the express Command, as they had accepted them at the earnest Request of their Royal Master.

rafter; an Opposition of Placemen and Pensioners, *for they opposed themselves.* The Public therefore refused their Confidence to a Ministry which was irresolute, divided and overawed to a Degree of Ridicule, which was timid and presumptuous by Turns, and whose Proceedings were stained with the various Hues of each Faction which composed it.—They hung, however, with the most interested Perseverance on those Offices, to the Difficulties of which they were so apparently unequal, till they were removed *upon a Plan settled by that Minister* whom they had courted, forsaken, and endeavoured to ruin.

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XV.

These are plain Facts; of a clear and public Nature; neither extended by elaborate Reasoning, or heightened by the Colouring of Eloquence. They are the Services of a single Year.

XVI.

The Removal of that Administration from Power, is not to them premature; since they were in Office long enough to accomplish many Plans of public Utility; and by their Perseverance and Resolution, rendered the Way smooth and easy to their Successors; having left their King
and

XV.

These are plain Facts; of a clear and public Nature; neither extended by elaborate Reasoning, or heightened by the Colouring of Eloquence. They are the Services of a single Year.

XVI.

The Removal of the late Administration from Power was to them premature, since it was in that Hour of Security in which they had boasted with equal Confidence and Falsehood of their Victory over Lord *Bute*, Mr. *Grenville*, and Lord *Chatham*; but to the Public, it was too late, for they were in Office
long

and their Country in a much better Condition than they found them. By the Temper they manifest, they seem to have now no other Wish, than that their Successors may do the Public as real and as faithful Service as they have done.

long enough to destroy those many Plans of Public Utility, which their Predecessors had formed; and, by their Incapacity, Irresolution and Profusion, to render the Way rough and difficult to any Successors; Difficulties, which they wish to increase, if we may judge of their Temper by the Conduct of such of them as could not find Favour in the Eyes of Lord *Chatbam*; and particularly by the courteous Reception given, in *Grosvenor Square*, to that Noble Lord.

It would be unfair to determine, whether they left their King and Country *in a much better Condition than they found them*, upon the scanty Materials produced by their short Historian. The other Measures pursued by them, and which his Modesty hath omitted, must contribute to the Decision of this Point. They are therefore added to *assist* the Judgment of the Reader.

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They

They *increased* the Establishment, in a Time of profound Peace, 94,000*l. per annum*; 77,300*l.* of which was proposed to be expended in repairing and rebuilding Ships, (while there were already more Ships than could be manned) and was demanded by those who had opposed the Establishment of the former Year, as too large, merely because when Great Lords say *Aye*, a poor C——r of the Ex——r must not say *No*. The rest of the Increase is the Effect of Profusion in every Article which could admit of being enlarged.

The Savings made by the former Ministry had amounted to 230,000*l.* The last Administration neglected the Improvement of the Revenue, by stopping short in those Tracts which had been pointed out to them: When by the Acquisition of the *Isle of Man*, an illicit Trade, amounting to 300,000*l. per annum*, was prevented, it was intended to perfect and extend that Measure by similar Regulations with regard to *Guernsey* and *Jersey*. This Intention was made known, the Means considered, the Measure called for and omitted: Their Predecessors in Office had obtained from *France*, for the Maintenance of their Prisoners, the only Sum ever brought into the Exchequer upon that Account. The Demands
for

for the Prisoners taken in *Germany* and the *East-Indies*, though equally founded in Justice, not being supported with equal Vigour, have in their Hands produced nothing.

The former Ministry had increased the Public Revenue by their *American* Bills, the Duty on Gum Seneca, and the Post-Office Regulations, 234,000 *l. per annum*, exclusive of the judicious Alterations which had been made in many Parts of the Revenue, and of that Reduction of Interest which amounted to 130,585 *l.* in the Space of two Years. In Fact, the total Debt provided for in that Period, amounted to 6462,946 *l.* while the Funds for the Discharge of this were laid principally upon Foreigners, and rather promoted than impeded our Commerce. The last Administration *diminished* the Public Revenue by the Acts respecting *America*, 130,000 *l.* by the Alteration of the Cyder Tax, 20,000 *l. per annum*. They raised the Supplies in the only Year in which that Province was entrusted to them, at the Expence of near 15000 *l.* above that of the former, though the Public was now in a more advantageous Situation, and the Tax imposed for Payment of the Interest of their Loan (that on Windows) must be either oppressive or ineffectual. The same Chancellor of the Exchequer, who had stated the disposeable Money of the Sinking Fund,

as considerably under one Million, took Credit for 2,150,000 *l.* on that Fund, deteriorated as it was by his System of Finance.

The Improvements which the former Administration had made in the Revenue, would have enabled them to give that Relief to the landed Interest, to which their steady Acquiescence, under the necessary Burthens of the State, had so well entitled them. By the last Administration, the Hopes of this Relief were entirely cut off, and the landed Gentlemen were partially sacrificed to the Interests of Traders and Colonists.

Upon the whole, the Nation, which in the preceding two Years had been benefited 200,000 *l. per annum*, was impoverished by the last Administration, (if we add their Increase of Expence to their Diminution of the Income) in the Space of one Year, 240,000 *l.* which is the Interest of EIGHT MILLIONS! The Public, which had beheld them advanced to Office with Surprise, felt a warm Indignation at the Oppressions which it had suffered from their Measures, and saw with the justest Pleasure, a Part of them, at least, deprived of the Power of augmenting the Distresses of the State. The Nation has too severely felt the Effects of their Incapacity and Profusion, either to wish for, or to support Successors of similar Principles and Abilities.

F I N I S.